

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

- 5 1. (Currently Amended) A tool for circulating fluid in a well bore, the tool comprising:
a tubular assembly having a through passage between an inlet and a first outlet, the inlet
and first outlet being adapted for connection in a work string, a second outlet extending
generally transversely of the tubular assembly;
an obturating member moveable between a first position closing the second outlet and a
10 second position permitting fluid flow through the second outlet, the obturating member
including restraining means to actively retain the obturating member independently in the
first and the second positions; an engagement mechanism actuatable between an
engaged configuration, in which the obturating member is locked in one of the first or
second positions; and a disengaged configuration in which the obturating member can
15 move to the other of the first and second positions; and
a fluid pressure actuation surface coupled to the engagement mechanism and biased by
a spring located between the tubular assembly and the engagement mechanism;
wherein variation of fluid pressure on the actuation surface controls actuation of the
engagement mechanism ~~and stroking the tool in the disengaged configuration moves the~~
20 ~~obturating member between the engaged and disengaged configurations;~~
and wherein, with the engagement mechanism in the disengaged configuration and the
obturating member in the first position, an upstroke of the tool, putting the tool in tension,
moves the obturating member to the second position, thereby permitting fluid flow to the
second outlet;
25 and further wherein, with the engagement mechanism in the disengaged configuration
and the obturating member in the second position, a downstroke of the tool, putting the
tool in compression, moves the obturating member to the first position, thereby closing
the second outlet.
- 30 2. (Original) A tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the obturating member comprises a
sleeve axially slidable within the tubular assembly.

3. (Previously Presented) A tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the restraining means is a collet.
4. (Original) A tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the collet is retainable in a plurality of
5 recesses on the tubular assembly.
5. (Previously Presented) A tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the fluid pressure actuation surface is located on an actuator sleeve axially slidable within the tubular assembly.
- 10 6. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the restraining means is a collet and further wherein a portion of the actuator sleeve is located across the collet.
7. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in Claim 4 5, wherein the engagement mechanism comprises mutually engageable formations on each of the actuator sleeve
15 and the tubular assembly.
8. (Original) A tool as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the formations comprise a pin and a groove.
- 20 9. (Original) A tool as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the groove is continuous so that the pin can travel in a continuous cycle around the groove.
10. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the groove comprises a plurality of apexes and bases such that the pin moves longitudinally relative to the tubular
25 assembly, for at least a portion of the cycle.
11. (Previously Presented) A tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second outlet comprises a plurality of ports in the tubular assembly which communicate with the inlet.
- 30 12. (Original) A tool as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the ports are distributed circumferentially around the outer surface of the tubular assembly.
13. (Previously Presented) A tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the first outlet is greater than the cross-sectional area of the second outlet.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for circulating fluid in a well bore, the method comprising the steps:

(a) inserting a work string into the well bore, the work string having a fluid inlet, a first fluid outlet and a second fluid outlet, an obturating member which is moveable between a first and second position to respectively close and open the second fluid outlet, and an engagement mechanism which when engaged locks the obturating member in one of the first or second positions;

(b) varying the fluid pressure through the work string to move the engagement mechanism between locked and unlocked configurations; ~~and~~

(c) ~~stroking the work string to move the obturating member between the first and second positions, with the engagement mechanism in the unlocked configuration~~ and the obturating member in the first position, selectively stroking the work string up to place the work string in tension, to move the obturating member to the second position and thereby open the second fluid outlet; and

(d) with the engagement mechanism in the unlocked configuration and the obturating member in the second position, selectively stroking the work string down to place the string in compression, to move the obturating member to the first position and thereby close the second fluid outlet.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein varying the fluid pressure through the work string is achieved by pumping fluid through the work string.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the method includes the step of running the work string in a closed and locked configuration with the pumps used to pump fluid through the work string turned off.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the method includes the step of drilling with the work string in a closed and locked configuration and in compression while pumping fluid.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the method includes the step of back reaming with the work string in a closed and unlocked configuration and in tension while pumping fluid.
- 5 19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the method includes the step of opening the second outlet with the work string in tension with the pumps used to pump fluid through the work string off.
- 10 20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the method includes the step of stroking the work string in a locked and open configuration while pumping fluid.
- 15 21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the method includes the step of stroking the work string in a locked and open configuration with the pumps used to pump fluid through the work string off.
22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the method includes operating the work string in a cyclic manner through the following configurations:
- 20 (a) locked closed;
(b) unlocked closed;
(c) unlocked open;
(d) locked open;
(e) unlocked open; and
(f) unlocked closed.
- 25 23. (New) A method for circulating fluid in a well bore, the method comprising the steps:
- 30 (a) inserting a work string into the well bore, the work string having a fluid inlet, a first fluid outlet and a second fluid outlet, an obturating member which is moveable between a first and second position to respectively close and open the second fluid outlet, and an engagement mechanism which when engaged locks the obturating member in one of the first or second positions;

- (b) varying the fluid pressure through the work string by pumping fluid through the work string, to move the engagement mechanism between locked and unlocked configurations;
- (c) stroking the work string to move the obturating member between the first and second positions; and
- (d) back reaming with the work string in a closed and unlocked configuration and in tension while pumping fluid.

24. (New) A method for circulating fluid in a well bore, the method comprising the steps:

- (a) inserting a work string into the well bore, the work string having a fluid inlet, a first fluid outlet and a second fluid outlet, an obturating member which is moveable between a first and second position to respectively close and open the second fluid outlet, and an engagement mechanism which when engaged locks the obturating member in one of the first or second positions;
- (b) varying the fluid pressure through the work string by pumping fluid through the work string, to move the engagement mechanism between locked and unlocked configurations;
- (c) stroking the work string to move the obturating member between the first and second positions; and
- (d) opening the second outlet with the work string in tension and with the pumps used to pump fluid through the work string off.

25. (New) A method for circulating fluid in a well bore, the method comprising the steps:

- (a) inserting a work string into the well bore, the work string having a fluid inlet, a first fluid outlet and a second fluid outlet, an obturating member which is moveable between a first and second position to respectively close and open the second fluid outlet, and an engagement mechanism which when engaged locks the obturating member in one of the first or second positions;
- (b) varying the fluid pressure through the work string by pumping fluid through the work string, to move the engagement mechanism between locked and unlocked configurations; and

(c) stroking the work string to move the obturating member between the first and second positions;

wherein the step of stroking the work string includes stroking the string in a locked and open configuration and with the pumps used to pump fluid through the work string off.